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KalamazooVALLEY™ community college

SUMMER SEMESTER CLASSES AT VALLEY
A GREAT OPTION FOR MANY REASONS

Cliff Kelly and Kate Mitchell participating in COM 113

There are many reasons that students attend summer classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students who are enrolled in other colleges and universities often return home for the summer and have the time to take classes to stay on track for graduation. Kalamazoo Valley makes becoming a guest student easy. "Students need to complete an online Kalamazoo Valley application, and identify themselves as a guest student," said Valley's Director of Admissions, Registration and Records Sarah Hubbell.

These students will receive an acceptance letter within one week containing the information they need to register for classes through the college's self-service online portal. Tuition bills are available online and payment can be made online, on campus, or by mail. To apply, students should visit www.kvcc.edu/apply.

Before enrolling, guest students should consult with their current college or university to ensure that the classes they take at Kalamazoo Valley will be accepted as transfer credit and fit their specific area of study. Once they have completed summer course work, students need to be sure to submit a request to have an official transcript sent back to their primary institution.

According to Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. Billy Reynolds popular classes for summer guest students include MUS 102 History of Rock n' Roll, COM 101 Public Speaking, HUM 205 Mythology, ENG 220 Creative Writing, and ENG 244 Literature for Adolescents. "Students tell us they want to get basic classes out of the way during summer months so that they can concentrate on other classes during the school year," Reynolds said.

Because she wants to graduate in three years with a bachelor's degree, Western Michigan University student Emily Mixis believes that taking classes at Valley is a great way to spend part of the summer. She said, "I recommend taking the harder classes of your degree at Kalamazoo Valley because you will be in smaller-sized classes and have more personal faculty attention." Mixis, a 2017 Mattawan High School graduate, is no stranger to Valley, "I choose to dual enroll at Valley while still in high school because it gave me a head start going into college. I took college classes my senior year of high school so I had an easier transition to Western. I'm glad I started at Valley, I'm a better student," Mixis said.

Guest students are not the only ones who benefit from taking summer classes. "Many of our community college students enroll in summer semester classes to keep on pace to complete their programs in a timely manner," said Dean of Math and Science Dr. Paige Eagan. "The summer semester allows students to focus on rigorous courses required for many of our programs," Eagan said. "In my area, statistics, calculus courses, and general chemistry are popular with students," Eagan continued. Other top course picks for students include PHY 111/112 College Physics, BIO 130 Microbiology, and BIO 110 Anatomy and Physiology."

According to Director of Enrollment Management E. J. Bast, "the benefits of taking summer classes at Kalamazoo Valley are endless. Not only does this help students stay on track for graduation or get ahead in their program, they can also take advantage of our affordable tuition and small class sizes while completing classes that are offered in a shorter time frame than in a standard semester."

Even if you are not starting a degree program or scheduling classes to get ahead or keep on track for completion, summer semester classes at Valley are available to everyone. Registration for summer classes is available now and classes start on Monday, May 7. Online class registration is available at www.kvcc.edu/register.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION DINNER
VERONIKA SCOTT OF THE EMPOWERMENT PLAN

Veronika Scott has been announced as the keynote speaker for the Opportunities for Education Scholarship Dinner to be presented by the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation on May 23 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites. The event is a primary source of funding for Kalamazoo Valley student scholarships.

Scott is the founder and CEO of The Empowerment Plan, a Detroit-based nonprofit organization focused on permanently elevating families from the generational cycle of homelessness. The Empowerment Plan hires single parents from local shelters and provides them with training and full-time employment as seamstresses so that they can earn a stable income, find secure housing, and regain their independence. They manufacture coats designed to meet the needs of those in the homeless community. The durable EMPWR Coat can transform into a sleeping bag at night or an over-the-shoulder bag when not in use. Since 2012, the organization has provided employment to 45 homeless individuals—all of whom have now secured permanent housing for themselves and their families —and distributed more than 25,000 coats to those in need across the world. One of the coats is displayed at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum's new Innovation Gallery.

Scott was inspired to start The Empowerment Plan when she was challenged to create a product to fill an actual need in her community during a class at The College for Creative Studies in Detroit. She embraced the issue of homelessness and began spending time at a nearby warming center where the design for the EMPWR coat was born. While conducting her research, Scott was angrily confronted by a homeless woman who said she did not need a coat—she needed a job. That was the moment that shaped the innovative business practices The Empowerment Plan would adopt. For her extraordinary efforts, Scott was named a "Visionary Woman" by CNN in 2016.

Scott joins the Foundation for its 14th annual OFE Dinner. According to Steve Doherty, executive director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, the need for financial aid among students has continued to rise steadily. In 2016-17, Kalamazoo Valley Community College processed more than 14,000 requests for financial aid. Of those requests, 41 percent received some form of financial aid. The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year and the Foundation's scholarship fund is one way the college works to meet student needs.

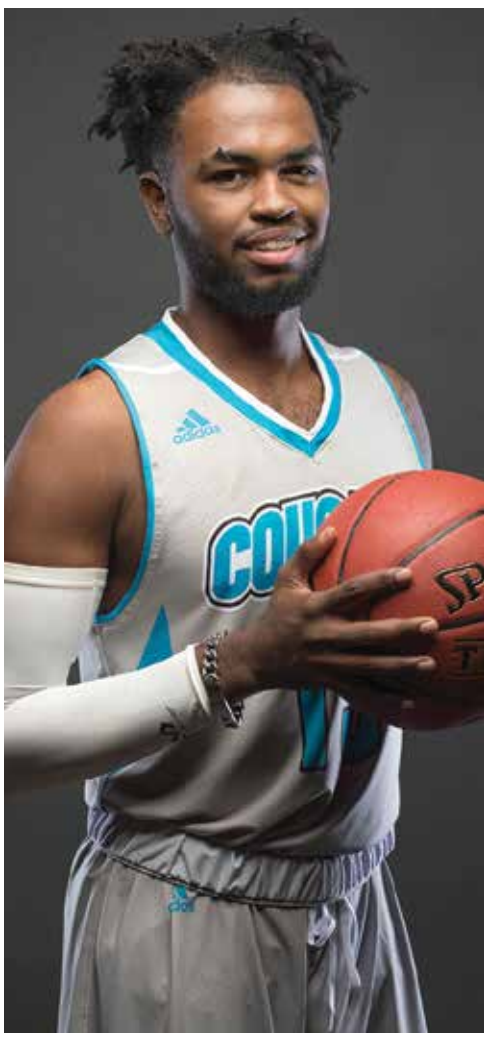
The dinner runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with the pre-event reception beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program which concludes at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are $160 for individuals and $75 each for students. Sponsor tables that seat eight are available for $1,600. To order tickets, go to www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

For more information about the event and the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, contact Steve Doherty at 269.488.4442 or email sdoherty@kvcc.edu.

Veronika Scott, designer of the EMPWR coat

KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S 81ST COMMENCEMENT
TO BE HELD ON APRIL 29



Student speaker, Ralph (Tre) Stanley Humes III

Kalamazoo Valley Community College will be celebrating its 81st commencement at 4:00 p.m. on April 29 in Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University. It's free and open to the public. The ceremony will be broadcast live through Public Media Network on channel 191 with Charter Communications and channel 99 with AT&T U-Verse.

President of Kalamazoo Valley Community College Dr. Marilyn Schlack will attend her final graduation as president, as she is set to retire after 44 years with the college, 35 as president.

Graduating student athlete Ralph (Tre) Stanley Humes III was selected as the student speaker. Dr. LaSonda Wells, academic counselor, has been named the faculty speaker.

"I chose Tre to speak at the commencement because of his excellent character and standout leadership on the basketball team as well as in the classroom," said Athletic Director and Student Relations Coordinator Russ Panico. "Tre is a great representative of the student body."

Despite his busy schedule juggling basketball and his academics, Humes will graduate with a 3.7 GPA and has received offers from several four-year universities to continue his basketball career in the fall. He will graduate with a business administration degree with hopes to earn a bachelor degree in business as well as leaning toward a career in investment banking.

"The hardest part about being a student athlete would have to be finding a good balance of working out and maintaining great study habits when you are physically exhausted all of the time," said Humes. "The positive work environment at Kalamazoo Valley definitely helped me succeed. The most important advice that I have for current students would be to go to class. As long as instructors see your face every day they are usually more than willing to help you if you are struggling in an area. Also, it's so important to utilize all of the resources that Valley has to offer."

Wells said she is also very honored to be chosen as faculty speaker. "Being a counselor, I get to work with these students along their academic journey. As a student marshal I'm usually back stage guiding students before they walk, so it's a privilege to get to address them on stage as they move onward toward their future goals."

The college has four locations – a main campus in Texas Township, the nearby Groves Campus, Arcadia Commons Campus and The Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo.

The college offers certificate programs in more than 20 areas of study and associate degrees in 25 others. These include business, health care, human and public service, and technical occupations. Kalamazoo Valley also provides student-placement services and works closely with other institutions to ensure the transfer of students' credits. A fully accredited institution, Kalamazoo Valley offers day and evening, online and weekend classes.

Summer semester registration is open now, visit www.kvcc.edu/register.

MORE HEALTHY LOCAL FOOD
ON SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S PLATES

VALLEYHUB
Food Innovation. Locally Delivered.

What do the Black Owl Café, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Mattawan Creamery, Kaleamazoo Chips, Fuze Kitchen and Bar, and Old Dog Tavern all have in common? They all purchase and serve fresh local produce from Kalamazoo Valley Community College's ValleyHUB.

ValleyHUB is located at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway at Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center in downtown Kalamazoo. The building serves as a food processing and distribution center, helping to get foods from local farms to large scale consumers which also include South Haven Public Schools, Kalamazoo College, PFC Natural Grocery and Deli, and Kalamazoo Valley's own culinary arts program.

Produce growers who use the food hub include Birdsong Farm, Green Gardens, Schultz Fruitridge Farms and Crisp Country Acres.

"Our goal is to get more healthy fresh foods onto more plates in southwest Michigan," said Food Innovation Center Director Rachel Bair. "There is a big demand for local foods and a need for supply chain support. There has been a gap between institutions like schools and hospitals - who buy a ton of food and want to start purchasing more of it from local sources - and the growers who can supply it to them."

ValleyHUB serves as a link in the supply chain from farm to institution by working with a small group of growers to provide aggregation, minimal processing, and food safety assurance services. "We support the fresh food value chain in southwest Michigan," said Food Hub and Food Safety Coordinator for Kalamazoo Valley Randall Davis. "We work with a diverse network of local growers and producers at all levels of experience and scale. We prioritize quality, sustainability and service."

Bronson Food Services Manager Jeff Burnell said, "Partnering with ValleyHUB has been instrumental in Bronson Methodist Hospital's commitment to local food sourcing. Now our institution can more easily invest our local spend, and serve better quality ingredients for our patients and employees. We recognize that fresh, local produce plays a vital role in healing our patients as well as advancing the health of our communities and our economies."

The food hub also offers many benefits to the community and its farmers and consumers. ValleyHUB's distribution practices ensure that the customer can always identify the local farm where produce was grown, and a transparent farm-driven pricing system helps make sure more benefits get back to the farm.

In addition to being a "food hub," ValleyHUB is also an urban farm and education center. The urban farm provides unique training opportunities for students enrolled in the college's culinary rrts program. Students work with staff and faculty to learn new and innovative methods for year-round growing and market-test unique specialty items, like the Thai basil and Chinese chrysanthemum sold at

Locally grown kale

Pacific Rim Foods. The training center at ValleyHUB also offers programs in food safety, produce handling, and production methods to help growers and food handlers innovate and succeed, as well as community classes aimed at helping Kalamazoo residents produce more of their own food. "When possible, we seek to create community benefits through our students' work," Bair said. "The farm and the food hub do just that. They are venues for students to practice real-world skills while supplementing the Kalamazoo food supply and providing services to local farms and cafeterias."

Davis emphasized that the intent is not to compete with existing businesses. "The ValleyHUB operation supports our educational programs, and we aim to support other local farms and food businesses," he said. "Our students get hands-on experience growing, processing, packaging and distributing food in order to help build a better understanding and appreciation around local foods."

The food hub has been in operation since October 2016. Davis expects business to expand this spring as more area growers and restaurants learn about the services and as local produce comes into season.

For more information about ValleyHUB services or to become a ValleyHUB supplier, email fic@kvcc.edu.

APPRENTICESHIPS PAY
HUGE DIVIDENDS FOR STUDENTS

HAAS 3D probing of material

Kalamazoo Valley has a reputation for preparing students for the workplace, that's why when Chris Orlowski was named general manager of XL Machine, he reached out to the college about an apprenticeship program.

XL Machine in Three Rivers turns out high-tolerance components for automotive, life sciences and other industries. Recently Modern Machine Shop magazine named XL Machine a 2017 "Top Shops" winner in the category of machining technology.

"Together with our parent company, Burke Porter Group, we are passionate about educating our young workforce in the STEM fields," Orlowski said. "With hundreds of machinists retiring each year and only a handful of new trainees entering the industry, finding new talent goes beyond posting a help wanted sign out front."

To recruit students, Orlowski joined the Career and Technical Education (CTE) committee for St. Joseph County and the Education for Employment (EFE) program for Kalamazoo County. After talking with other manufacturers and determining the skills they require Orlowski said, "We came up with a good curriculum, and then I approached area colleges. Within a year and a half, we were able to get approved for a federal apprenticeship program through the Federal Department of Labor. We now have an established relationship with Kalamazoo Valley Community College because they have nearly 20 machines between their lathes and mills. They also teach CNC programming, which is essential for our apprenticeship program."

"Our students truly benefit from these types of apprenticeships," said Kalamazoo Valley faculty member Bill Kring. "It's the best of both worlds; students learn in the classroom and have the experience of hands-on on-the-job training. Students are exposed to the real world of manufacturing and potentially secure a job for a lifetime with an employer who truly values their skills and abilities."

In addition, XL Machine currently works with Vicksburg High School, where students can participate in a co-operative education (co-op) program and work at XL while going to school. With effort and support from the county, more area high schools will join in the future, because the students who have participated couldn't be more enthusiastic.

"I love the hands-on experience and how many different types of jobs you can run on a single machine," said Rich Gillies, an apprentice at XL machine. He graduated in May 2017 from Vicksburg High School and now works as a machinist, setting up and running a vertical CNC mill. Occasionally, he checks part tolerances on one of XL Machine's 10 CMMs.

Gillies learned about the co-op program from a high school friend taking the Computerized Manufacturing class, and his friend finally convinced him to join. Before starting, he "knew next to nothing" about machining. Now, every day is a learning experience, and he is hooked.

"I can take almost any type of metal and turn it into something amazing," he says. "I've learned how to do some programming, and I would love to learn more about that at Kalamazoo Valley. I feel that XL Machine is preparing me for my future by giving me all the knowledge that I need to be able to further myself in this career."

To incentivize learning, XL Machine will pay 100 percent of the tuition costs at the college for those pursuing an apprenticeship – with some requirements. "Students have to have a little bit of skin in the game," says Orlowski. "They work regular hours, and a standard week for a machinist is 40 hours plus 10 hours of overtime. They go to school at night or on Saturday. If they maintain a 'B' average or better and remain punctual at work, we will pay their tuition."

Levi Van der Loon is a machinist with similar responsibilities to Gillies. He also took the computerized manufacturing class, but he took it all four years of high school because he loved the manufacturing environment so much. "During my junior year, an instructor from Education for Employment, talked to me. They coordinated a job interview at XL Machine, and I started a co-op placement as a result," says Van der Loon. "Half the day I would go to school, and I would work the rest of the day. I thought it was very helpful being able to continue with high school and make money at the same time."

Working at XL Machine within the co-op program helped Van der Loon buy his first car at age 16. Now that he works on high-end CNC machines, he says the trust XL Machine has placed in him makes him eager to learn more.

While Van der Loon can set up and run a CNC mill, he only has basic programming skills — for now. After graduating from high school in May 2017, he entered XL Machine's apprenticeship program with Kalamazoo Valley. Ultimately, he will earn a Journeyman's certificate while learning how to use CAD and CAM programs.

"Apprenticeship programs provide tremendous opportunities for students who are interested in the earn while you learn concept, as well as those who have an interest in being creative, problem solving, and developing skills which will last a lifetime," said Prior Learning and Apprenticeships Coordinator LaJoyce Brooks. "In addition to the partnership with XL Machine, Kalamazoo Valley collaborates with nearly 100 other area businesses which provide internships for more than 400 of our students," Brooks said.

For more information on how to get started with developing an apprenticeship program, or collaborating with Kalamazoo Valley Community College contact LaJoyce Brooks at lbrooks@kvcc.edu.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING
COMING TO KALAMAZOO

Corporate leadership training

Are you looking to take your career to the next level?

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, in partnership with Davenport University's Institute for Professional Excellence, is offering a Certificate of Project Management Program at Kalamazoo Valley June 5, 6 and 19 to help area employees increase their value and marketability in the workplace.

New and experienced project managers, project coordinators and professionals needing hands-on skills for managing projects and team members will learn how to improve performance, provide leadership and deliver projects on time and on budget.

"This program is designed for professionals of all experience levels from any industry who want to learn the latest project management tools, or who are considering transitioning into a project management role," explained Kalamazoo Valley's Manager of Corporate Training Kate Miller.

The demand for professionals with project management skills has increased dramatically in the last decade with continued growth expected, according to the Project Management Institute (PMI), the world's leading project management organization.

That need is increasingly evident in southwest Michigan.

"We've had a lot of requests to bring project management training to the area," Miller said. "Davenport's approach to corporate training aligns with our mission of delivering high quality, cost-effective training. It is rare to find such a unique partnership. Together, we're excited to bring this type of training to Kalamazoo."

During the three-day program, participants will learn common project terminology and standard practices including the project life cycle, setting goals and effective planning as well as critical management components to overseeing a project.

Michael Wolden, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with the PMI, a Professional Scrum Master (PSM) with Scrum.org, and a Certified Scaled Agile Practitioner (SP) with Scaled Agile, Inc., will lead the certification program that runs each day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

With a diverse background that includes 20 years of industry experience in tool and die, machine building and factory automation, consulting, automotive manufacturing, health care and retail, Wolden will show participants how to:

- Identify the project life cycle
- Utilize project conceptualization, including goals and vision statements
- Address change management, risk management, monitoring and controlling
- Learn resource management, time management and project leadership
- Think critically when choosing a project team
- Maximize productivity at team meetings
- Develop and execute a communication plan
- Identify strategies for working with problem team members

The course costs $1,195 and will be held at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Center located at 7107 Elm Valley Drive in Kalamazoo. By completing the Certificate of Project Management, students are eligible for 24 Professional Development Units through PMI.

For more information and to register, visit www.kvcc.edu/training or contact Kate Miller at 269.353.1257.

RIGOROUS HONORS PROGRAM PREPARES GRADUATES FOR MORE CHALLENGES

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Honors Program Director Stephen Louisell is always pleased but not totally surprised that so many graduates of the program transfer to prestigious universities. He proudly recites the achievements of graduates, noting that the list of doctors, lawyers, research scientists and other noteworthy titles continues to grow.

The Honors Program is a reading and writing intensive learning community that aims to prepare graduates transfer to top-notch colleges and universities. Successful applicants are expected to graduate from Kalamazoo Valley Community College before they transfer.

"In the Honors Program we believe we provide education for the first two years of college that's equal to a prestigious institution. The proof is in the quality of the institutions where our graduates transfer to. Quite a few go on to Kalamazoo College and the University of Michigan," Louisell said.

There are many benefits to being an Honors Program student including reimbursement of tuition and course fees at the in-district rate, learning with highly motivated peers, small classes with 20 or fewer students, preparation to transfer to challenging universities, mentoring and assistance with course selection, letters of recommendation upon graduation, and improved scholarship prospects at transfer institutions.

Paul Fazio and his wife Jennifer hadn't considered Kalamazoo Valley as a college option for their children until they discovered the Honors Program. "I'm a Hope College graduate and my wife's a Hope College graduate and we weren't sure about a community college for our daughter Marley," Fazio said. "Then we talked to Stephen Louisell about the Honors Program and discovered this hidden gem. It gives you a unique experience at a community college."

Marley (Mara) Fazio graduated from Plainwell High School in 2014 and earned an associate of science degree in pre-med from Kalamazoo Valley before transferring to Western Michigan University. "I was hesitant about coming to Kalamazoo Valley," she said. "All of my friends were going to big universities. Coming here was definitely worth it. I learned a lot and made a lot of friends. I'm really better off. I won't be $40,000 in debt when I graduate with my Bachelor of Science degree." She double majored in biomedical science and interdisciplinary health sciences and will graduate from WMU in December 2018. She plans to pursue a career in hospital administration.

Paul Fazio said his daughter's Honors Program experience changed his mind about Kalamazoo Valley. "My whole perspective about community college has changed," he said. "People become immediately condescending when you mention community college, but college is what you make of it and Kalamazoo Valley can be a great option in the formulation of a young person's path. It can open the doors to more opportunities. If you work hard and you're self-directed, it's a wonderful investment in moving forward."

The importance of critical thinking is at the heart of the Honors Program philosophy. Honors Program students spend a considerable number of hours each week preparing their assignments, Louisell noted. "The workload is equivalent to what is expected at selective liberal arts colleges." No exceptions are made to program requirements, which specify weekly writing assignments, seven honors classes in English, the humanities and math, as well as 15 hours of community service each semester.

Students must apply to the program and provide a resume of their accomplishments, including community services, grade point average, official transcripts, ACT or SAT scores and evidence of their composition ability. Finalists are interviewed by the director and notified about the decision. Honors Program instructors include Michael Keller, Kevin Dockerty, Nicole Bauman, and Scott Myers. In addition, Michael Raines and Tim Stebbins have been teaching mathematics to honors students for the past 14 years.

Honors Program student Betsy Kooistra plans to transfer to The King's College in New York City to study politics, philosophy and economics when she graduates from Kalamazoo Valley in April. Kooistra was homeschooled and followed her brother Jesse who also enrolled in the Honors Program. "I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to spend two years figuring out what I was good at in an environment that pushed me to grow," she said of the program. "While I've been a student here, I've been growing, learning and shaping my abilities." She said she has appreciated being part of a learning community that both encourages and challenges its members.

Because of the experience, Kooistra said she is certain that she's ready to move on. "I'm not scared of the writing and research I'm hearing about at four-year universities," she said. "I'm confident in my ability to handle what they're going to throw at me and my ability to take it to the next level."

Honors Program student Josh Rumsey, a Plainwell High School graduate, has been accepted into the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, where he plans to major in engineering at the University of Michigan. He says the Honors Program has prepared him well for his studies at U of M. "The Honors Program courses were considerably more difficult than their regular counterparts. My non-honors program friends were often surprised to hear the amount of work I was doing compared to them, even though we were learning the same course material. This however is the greatest advantage the program has to offer. Not only have I achieved much throughout my attendance, but I have also learned the value of hard work. I firmly believe that this program has prepared me for success in my future endeavors, and to which I have much to be thankful for," Rumsey said. "Throughout my experience in the program I have been surrounded by some of the brightest people I have ever met, students and faculty alike. In fact, I'd say that one of the greatest parts of the program is the peers that come with it. It's a fantastic feeling to be involved in a community that encourages one another to succeed beyond what's expected- to give 110% effort in everything we do. Spearheading it all is Steve Louisell, our biggest motivator for personal success. Mr. Louisell has helped me achieve more than I ever thought was possible, including admission to my dream school, the University of Michigan. I attribute much of my success to his wisdom and advice."

Josh Rumsey

For more information about the Honors Program at Kalamazoo Valley, go to www.kvcc.edu/campuslife/orgs/honors.

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